



2003 Idaho Update

U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management



The BLM Mission

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is responsible for the stewardship of our public lands. It is the mission of the BLM to sustain the health, diversity and productivity of the public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations. The BLM bases its management on the principles of multiple use and sustained yield of our nation's resources within a framework of environmental responsibility and scientific technology. These resources include recreation; rangelands; timber; minerals; watershed; fish and wildlife; wilderness; clean air and water; and scenic, scientific, and cultural values.



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Dear Reader,



It has been a pleasure serving as the State Director for the Bureau of Land Management in Idaho during the past year. Contributing greatly to this rewarding experience is the dedication of our employees and the support of our many partners. Together, we made substantial progress in achieving our management goals of sustaining the health, diversity, and productivity of Idaho's 12 million acres of public land.

Species conservation efforts in 2003 had Idaho BLM working with federal, state, and private partners to proactively identify measures to conserve critical habitat across all jurisdictions. Benefiting are at-risk species like sage grouse and slickspot peppergrass, as well as the many other species dependent upon these habitats.

Idaho BLM made significant accomplishments associated with several Presidential Initiatives. For instance, the Portneuf/West Bench project near Pocatello was selected as one of ten fuels reduction projects nationally to pilot the streamlined NEPA process under the **President's Healthy Forests Initiative (HFI)**. By reducing fuels and protecting communities in wildland-urban interface, this project, and others like it, are supporting objectives of the **National Fire Plan**. This project and the Whiskey South Project near Elk City are community-driven and enjoy broad-ranging support and involvement of community members; local, state, tribal, and federal officials; and Idaho's congressional delegation.

We also **capitalized on the work of nearly 500 volunteers**. From an initial BLM investment of about \$67,000, the public lands benefited statewide from over \$600,000 of donated labor. Stretching federal dollars with volunteer efforts allowed Idaho BLM to initiate an "Adopt-A-River-Reach" program. Through this program, individual volunteers and groups help with the clean-up, restoration, planting and weed maintenance of nearly a third of our field offices' river reaches. Through volunteer assistance, we conducted an Idaho Cave Survey which included locating, exploring, mapping, photographing, and recording archaeological features associated with lava tube caves. In addition, numerous campgrounds throughout Idaho were hosted over the summer by friendly, helpful volunteers.

During the year, Idaho BLM was busy in many ways supporting the nation and local citizens. To highlight a few: Wind energy development rights-of-way; support to Federal Energy Regulatory Commission dam relicensing efforts; off-highway vehicle travel and access management; updating Idaho's Resource Management Plans; assessing and updating grazing allotment management plans; evaluating and authorizing phosphate exploration activities and proposals; managing wild horse herds; conducting cadastral surveys on public and Tribal lands; contracting services; providing recreation opportunities; and providing law enforcement coverage on public lands and facilities to ensure public and employee health and safety.

These and many other fine examples of accomplishments are highlighted in this 2004 Idaho Update. I hope you will take a few minutes to review our annual report and see how your tax dollars are being used. Fiscal Year 2004 has already begun. With our continued combined efforts, I am confident we can make a positive difference on Idaho's public lands. These lands are your lands and it is our charge to care for them so they will remain healthy and productive for us and for those generations yet to come.

K Lynn Bennett

BLM State Director, Idaho



Statewide Summary

Rangeland Management

Priorities for the range program during the year included implementing the Rangeland Health Standards and Guidelines (S&Gs); completing allotment assessments and determinations; monitoring allotment utilization; and issuing grazing authorizations.

Livestock Use and Permit Renewal

Efforts are continue to promote an upward trend in rangeland conditions. Currently, 4 percent of the public rangelands are in excellent condition, 23 percent are in good condition, 30 percent are in fair condition, 27 percent are in poor condition, and 16 percent unclassified.

- Managed the livestock grazing by about 1,900 permittees on Idaho's public land.
- Renewed 163 livestock grazing permits and issued nearly 2,660 authorizations.



Standards and Guidelines

- Assessed an additional 233 allotments on 1.4 million acres for Rangeland Health S&Gs.
- Implemented S&Gs in 772 allotments and on 5.5 million acres, which is about 47 percent of the total targeted public land in Idaho.
- Initiated a Statewide review to assess consistency and efficiency in implementing S&Gs.

Wild Horses and Burros

The Idaho BLM manages wild horses on public lands in six herd management areas in the Lower Snake River and Upper Columbia-Salmon Clearwater districts. All wild horse areas are managed under land-use plans, and herd management areas are monitored to assure that overpopulation and resultant damage to the range do not occur.

- A total of 222 horses are currently estimated on public lands in the Upper Columbia-Salmon Clearwater District and 431 horses are estimated on public lands in the Lower Snake River District.
- 175 horses were removed from the Lower Snake River District in late October and early November 2003 to maintain herd populations at appropriate management levels (AML).
- 114 horses were adopted in Boise in December 2003.

Riparian-Wetland Management

There are about 3,900 miles of stream and 13,500 miles of non-stream associated with riparian-wetland areas in Idaho. These areas are very important to wildlife, watershed, and recreation values. In Idaho a number of enhancement projects are underway to protect and improve these important areas.

- Monitored 493 miles of stream-associated riparian areas.
- Initiated treatments to improve riparian conditions on 20 acres of wetland and 44 miles of stream.
- Completed 35 projects directly affecting riparian areas and wetlands.

Drought Strategy

A Statewide public land drought management policy, tiered to the National policy, was developed. In anticipation of continued drought conditions, Idaho BLM has increased participation in multiple partner and interagency committees.

- Produced a weekly regionalized summary of drought conditions and projections.
- Developed and implemented a communication plan to improve timely sharing of information.

Noxious Weeds

Insects for biological control are increasingly being used on many of the noxious weeds that infest our public rangelands. Many of the local county weed control personnel sprayed for weeds along public roads on public lands thanks to cooperative grants to those counties.

- The BLM Lower Snake River District compiled an environmental assessment to control Tamarisk in southern Idaho on public lands. This project will include restoration of degraded riparian areas and attempt to control the spread of Tamarisk.
- Treated over 15,000 acres of BLM land through the Tri-State Cooperative Weed Management Area, a joint effort with the states of Idaho, Washington, and Oregon involving partnerships with the Nature Conservancy, counties, Tribes, and private land owners.
- Provided about \$500,000 of Congressionally-designated funds to the State for weed management efforts.
- Planned and conducted a statewide Weed Summit to share and learn from one another's efforts.

Great Basin Restoration Initiative

Idaho BLM is working collaboratively to build support for the Great Basin Restoration Initiative (GBRI) initiative, which is an effort to reverse the effects of wildfire, weeds, and human impacts on habitat, forage, watershed, and land health. A number of BLM initiatives such as Sagebrush and Prairies Conservation, National Fire Plan, Healthy Forests and Woodlands, Invasive Species, and Healthy Rangelands will be integrated into GBRI.

Recreation

Public lands in Idaho continue to accommodate recreation visitors who enjoy everything from backpacking to boating. A primary management goal is to provide high quality recreation opportunities to the public. The recreation program includes river management, recreation planning; special recreation permits; trails management; operation and maintenance of developed recreation sites; and recreation construction and reconstruction.

<i>Idaho Recreation Highlights</i>		
Activities	Participants	Visitor Days
Picnicking and camping	2,256,000	1,169,000
Driving for pleasure	1,222,000	298,000
Fishing	1,502,000	479,000
Hunting	1,204,000	696,000
Motorized boating	808,000	151,000
Snowmobiling and other motorized travel	107,000	46,000
Rafting and other types of non-motorized boating	875,000	245,000
Hiking, mountain biking, and other types of non-motorized travel	1,152,000	309,000
Non-motorized winter activities	462,000	271,000
Off-highway vehicle riding	876,000	242,000
Viewing or learning about the environment	1,393,000	300,000
Specialized motor sports, events, and activities	15,000	3,000
Specialized non-motor sports, events, and activities	938,000	238,000
Swimming and other water-based activities	583,000	70,000
Total	13,393,000	4,517,000

Volunteer Program

Volunteers donated 37,450 work hours worth an estimated value of \$619,423 to BLM. Volunteers assisted with efforts such as the Sacajawea Interpretive, Cultural, and Educational Center grand opening; National Public Lands Day; and the Saint Anthony Sand Dunes Annual Clean-up.

Forestry

Forest health restoration projects through salvaging damaged timber and other forest projects were implemented on public lands following wildfire, insect and disease outbreak, and other natural events.

- Completed over 3,400 acres of commercial forest and woodland restoration treatments, accomplishing 93 percent of our target.
- Sold over 400 permits and contracts for Christmas trees; firewood; transplants; floral and greenery; edibles and medicinals; and native seed. The number of permits sold was 118 percent of our target.
- Sold over 9.4 million board feet (MMBF) of sawtimber by advertised and negotiated timber sales. percent. Including sale modifications, this was 114 percent of our target.
- Evaluated the success of restoration treatments on over 2,300 acres of forests and woodlands, which was 137 percent of our target.
- Began projects within the President's Healthy Forests Initiative, including the Portneuf, one of the President's Blue Ribbon hazardous fuels treatment projects; and the Whiskey South and Wet Gulch projects, which are restoration projects addressing fuels reduction and habitat restoration.
- As a community service, provided 5,700 fence posts and 16,700 poles to the Lemhi ranching community through the Grouse/McDevitt Timber Sale.

Fire Management

Work continued to implement the President's Healthy Forest initiative and the National Fire Plan to reduce fire risk to natural resources and wildland-urban interface communities.

- Treated 104,594 acres in the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI).
- Treated 95,372 acres outside the WUI.
- Monitored 36,349 acres.
- Inventoried 902,234 acres.
- Completed 93 FireWise Educational Workshops for WUI areas.
- Completed 17 County/Community Mitigation Plans.
- Completed a total of 78 plans, including burn, National Environmental Policy Act, monitoring, watershed, interdisciplinary and mitigation plans.
- Continued the BLM Rural Fire Assistance program, which allocated three-quarters of a million dollars to 117 rural fire departments around the State for needed equipment, training, and prevention activities.



Fish and Wildlife

Fish and wildlife habitat management consists of maintaining and improving food, water, cover, and habitat for mammals, birds, fish, reptiles, and amphibians. Major populations of deer, elk, moose, and Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep winter on public lands in Idaho. About 95 percent of the California bighorns, 80 percent of the antelope, and 80 percent of the sage grouse populations in the State fulfill their year-long habitat requirements on these lands. The Snake River Birds of Prey Area has the highest known nesting density of raptors in North America.

Idaho BLM continued to monitor populations of proposed threatened and endangered species.

- Slickspot Peppergrass: Developed a multi-partner Candidate Conservation Agreement (CCA). The CCA provides greater protection to the species and habitat because it extends beyond federal lands and includes actions on private and state lands.
- Sage Grouse: Coordinated with Idaho Department of Fish and Game to create maps of sage grouse habitat areas and to fund a position dedicated to organizing sage grouse data. Idaho BLM is actively working with multiple agencies and various interest groups to build and implement a strategy which will preserve and build upon existing sage grouse habitat on public lands.





Cultural Resources

Through a coordinated process of inventory, evaluation, analysis, and public involvement that includes Tribal consultation, Idaho BLM seeks to preserve important archaeological and historical properties and sites possessing traditional cultural and religious importance to Idaho native Tribes for the benefit of current and future generations.

- Cultural Resource inventories were conducted for 278 projects resulting in the examination of 63,600 acres on public lands in Idaho. The vast majority of these inventories were conducted in support of proposed land use actions and authorizations.
- As a result of inventories in the past year, 550 historic and archaeological properties were located and documented, of which 130 properties were determined to be eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.
- Issued 35 permits for cultural resource work on public lands to private firms and universities
- Protected 334 cultural properties through a variety of measures including signing, monitoring, installation of protective fencing, and more intensive stabilization-restoration activities.
- Monitoring detected three incidents of unauthorized excavation, removal, or vandalism to cultural resources. BLM law enforcement specialists are investigating these incidents.

Lands and Realty Program

Through the lands and realty program, the BLM in Idaho authorizes the use of public lands through the issuance of rights-of-way, leases, and permits. Idaho also has an active land exchange program.

Hydroelectric Power Relicensing

- Several hydropower re-licensing efforts are underway, including the Bear River Projects and Hell's Canyon Complex.

Wind Energy

- There are six active wind farm energy project applications for rights-of-way (ROW) requiring NEPA, plan review and realty actions, directly affecting more than 40,000 acres of public land. In addition, there are several active and proposed wind energy projects on State and private lands.
- Nationally, the BLM has begun the preparation of a Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS) to evaluate the effects of the potential development of wind energy on public lands in the West. The BLM in Idaho hosted a Regional Scoping Meeting in Boise on November 20, 2003 to solicit public comments on the issues that need to be addressed in the PEIS.

Exchanges

- Five public land exchanges were completed during the year.

Support Services

Support Services provides key organizational functions such as contracting, cooperative agreements, property management, cadastral survey, engineering, recruitment, employee development, information resources management, records management, and property management.



Cadastral Survey

- Provided boundary, easement, and ROW surveys to enhance efforts to improve forest health and aid fuel reduction work in support of the Healthy Forests Initiative.
- Accomplished boundary identification and high priority boundary and easement surveys for land exchanges, recreation, protection of cultural and environmental resources, and hazardous materials accountability.

Engineering, Land Records, Geographic Information Systems

- Accomplished maintenance and construction work throughout the year at facilities and locations around the State.
- Produced high quality Geographic Information Systems products.
- Maintained and updated land records.

Human Resources Management

- Ensured alignment of human capital policies, recruitment, training, leadership development, and diversity initiatives to effectively support accomplishment of the Bureau's mission, goals, and strategies.
- Implemented E-Gov initiatives, improved financial and managerial accountability, competitive sourcing reviews, and performance based budgeting.

Information Resources Management

- Implemented national policies for information technology security measures and management of e-mail records.
- Developed plans for expenditures and disaster recovery.
- Continued implementing plans for network and system configuration requirements; deployment of enterprise operating system and office automation software; and digital narrowband radio.

Procurement and Contracting

- Implemented online automated agreements database.
- Administered 117 new contracts and purchase orders.
- Processed and administered 12 new interagency agreements.
- Began implementation of the Government Printing Office's new printing programs.

Tribal Rights and Interests

Idaho BLM provided training on Federal Trust Responsibility and Trust Assets. We considered rights and interests of Tribes during land management planning; fire planning; and restoration and project implementation work.



*Payments in Lieu of Taxes (PILT)
to Idaho Counties for FY 2003*

County	Payment	County	Payment	County	Payment
Ada	\$269,997	Cassia	\$1,074,481	Lewis	\$11,025
Adams	\$98,708	Clark	\$90,692	Lincoln	\$382,668
Bannock	\$279,558	Clearwater	\$266,852	Madison	\$78,834
Bear Lake	\$347,075	Custer	\$380,688	Minidoka	\$237,592
Benewah	\$18,759	Elmore	\$1,292,673	Nez Perce	\$46,232
Bingham	\$428,301	Franklin	\$161,983	Oneida	\$361,308
Blaine	\$962,970	Fremont	\$635,235	Owyhee	\$682,283
Boise	\$160,957	Gem	\$137,442	Payette	\$89,951
Bonner	\$82,792	Gooding	\$323,514	Power	\$393,628
Bonneville	\$774,568	Idaho	\$819,716	Shoshone	\$222,573
Boundary	\$86,465	Jefferson	\$254,200	Teton	\$113,608
Butte	\$246,852	Jerome	\$131,290	Twin Falls	\$871,184
Camas	\$80,727	Kootenai	\$244,499	Valley	\$372,169
Canyon	\$27,493	Latah	\$112,764	Washington	\$394,877
Caribou	\$486,274	Lemhi	\$481,584		
				Total	\$15,017,041



Idaho BLM Offices

BLM in Idaho on the Internet
<http://www.id.blm.gov>

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Lower Snake River District

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Upper Snake River District

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Four Rivers Field Office

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Idaho Falls Field Office

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Phone: (208) 524-7500

Owyhee Field Office

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Burley Field Office

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Burley, Idaho 83318
Phone: (208) 677-6641

Jarbridge Field Office

2620 Kimberly Road
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Phone: (208) 736-2350

Shoshone Field Office

400 West F Street
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Shoshone, Idaho 83352-1522
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Pocatello Field Office

4350 Cliffs Drive
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Malad Field Station

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Upper Columbia – Salmon Clearwater District

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Coeur d'Alene Field Office

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Cottonwood Field Office

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Challis Field Office

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